Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 208063

ROME FOR CHARGE AND SARROS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), IT

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER TRIP TO VIENNA AND ROME - AUDIENCE WITH POPE

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY TO APPROPRIATE VATICAN OFFICIALS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO POPE PAUL:

"YOUR HOLINESS:

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE AGREED THAT THE MEETING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 7 IN VIENNA TO DISCUSS LIMITATIONS ON STRATETIC ARMAMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS WILL BE DEFERRED TO WASHINGTON BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 22, IN ORDER TO ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO COMPLETE THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING. IN ADDITION, I AM OBLIGED TO BE PRESENT IN WASHINGTON FOR THE CEREMONIES SEPTEMBER 6 TO 8 ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME I PLANNED MY VISIT TO ROME, I AM NOT NOW ABLE TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE IN SEPTEMBER. I DEEPLY APPRECIATED YOUR VERY KIND OFFER TO RECEIVE ME IN AUDIENCE AT CASTEL GANDOLFO AND I HOPE THAT MY CHANGE OF PLANS HAS CAUSED YOU NO INCONVENIENCE. I TRUST

I SHALL HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY SOON TO HOLD THE DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU ON IMPORTANT WORLD PROBLEMS TO WHICH I HAD SO MUCH LOOKED FORWARD.

SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE."

- 2. FYI: CANCELLATION OF SEPTEMBER 5-10 TRIP TO EUROPE AND POSTPONEMENT OF TALKS WITH GROMYKO WILL BE ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOT REFER SPECIFICALLY TO ROME STOP. WE DO NOT PLAN TO RELEASE MESSAGE TO POPE BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION SHOULD VATICAN WISH TO DO SO.
- 3. AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED WHEN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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